

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-subject application are respectfully requested.

Claims 49 and 50 in the amendment filed June 18, 2009 were mis-numbered and have been re-numbered claims 48 and 49, respectively.

The term "one-sided" objected to by the Examiner in claims 32, 41, and 48 is removed, and therefore, the 112, second paragraph rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 27-32, 34, 36-41, and 43-49 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being obvious based on Boland (EP 1045604 A2) and Chavez (US 6,192,234). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In response to the Examiner's advisory action and final rejection, the independent claims are amended to more fully distinguish from the combination of Boland and Chavez. Example support may be found in paragraph [0036] of the published US application which describes a priority-group as being unique for a certain category of users within a UMTS system. These multiple users may be categorized in different ways. Example categories include people employed by a certain employer, people with a certain occupation, e.g., ambulance personnel, police personnel or fire fighters, or users that reside within a certain area, e.g., in an office block, in factory or at a construction site, etc. There may also be certain categories of users that reside temporarily within a certain area, e.g., rescue personnel at the scene of an accident etc. Further example support is found in paragraph [0020] of the published US application describing that one advantage of the claimed technology is the ability to provide a group of multiple users in a mobile telecommunication system with a quality of service that may differ between different coverage areas of the system as well as differ within a certain coverage area of the system.

Hence, all the members of a specific group of multiple users can be provided with the same quality of service in a coverage area of the system.

By way of brief review, in Boland, the service priority data associated with mobile subscribers 111 (mobile subscriber stations 101) is stored in a Home Location Register 113. The system in Boland compares the identity of a mobile subscriber station 101 with the service priority data stored in the HLR 113 for the mobile subscriber station 101 to determine whether this mobile subscriber station 101 is entitled to wireless service and specifically whether a subscriber has a priority that guarantees wireless service. The Examiner admits that Boland lacks multiple features relating to the claimed coverage area priority-tables having area IDs, priority-levels, priority-groups, and quality of service associated with the priority-levels. The stored priority data in Boland is associated with mobile subscribers and/or mobile subscriber stations (a terminal) and not with a coverage area as is the case for the claimed priority-tables. Hence, the terminals/subscribers in Boland always have the same priority within the whole coverage area of the system. In contrast, the claimed user-device may have different priority service levels in different coverage areas as a result of the claimed priority-tables.

The independent claims define that each priority-group is unique for a group of multiple users. The priority-levels in a priority-table in the claims are associated with a quality of service (QoS), i.e., they are not associated with a user-device. The QoS associated with a priority-level is assigned to the user-device with the effect that a group of multiple users can be provided with a particular QoS, i.e., all the members in a specific group of multiple users can be provided with the same QoS.

Boland explains “[t]he wireless service provider can then differentially provide wireless communication services to the wireless subscribers, based upon the service priority assigned to a particular subscriber” (see page 8, lines 23-25) and “[a]t step 209, the system to provide guaranteed wireless communication service for subscribers 111 compares the identity of the mobile subscriber station 101 with the service priority data stored in the Home Location Register 113 associated with this mobile subscriber station 101” (page 14 lines 5–12). So according to Boland, a priority is associated with a Mobile Subscriber Station (MSS) 101. Here, the priority may perhaps be similar to a QoS. Also, see e.g. Fig. 3 in Boland illustrating an example where priority one (1) is assigned to MSS 101 and is stored in a Home Location Register 113. Boland compares the identity of a MSS 101 with the priority for that MSS 101 to determine whether this MSS 101 is entitled to wireless service etc, see page 14 lines 5–12 in Boland.

In contrast to the priority in Boland being associated with the MSS (i.e., a user-device) the claimed QoS is associated with a coverage area. Because the priority is associated with the user-device in Boland, the user-devices will have the same priority or QoS independent of the coverage area for the user-device. This is also in contrast to the claimed user-device which, due to the priority-tables, may have a different QoS depending on the present coverage area for the user-device.

Thus, Boland does not disclose a system or method where the user-devices has a QoS that depends on the present coverage area of the user-device in question. On the contrary, the user-devices in Boland have a certain QoS independent of the coverage area of the user-device.

Each table in Figures 2-4 of Chavez is also associated with a user terminal. See Figs. 2-4 describing “TABLE 1 FOR WIRELESS TERMINAL 102”, “TABLE 2 FOR WIRELESS TERMINAL 103” and “TABLE 3 FOR WIRELESS TERMINAL 103.” In contrast, claim 27

recites “providing multiple priority-tables, each associated with one or several coverage areas of the system.” The tables in Fig. 2-4 may perhaps be similar to the priority-tables defined in the independent claims. But these tables in Chavez do not teach a priority-level associated with a QoS that is assigned one or more priority-groups where each priority group is unique for a group of multiple users, as is the case for the priority-table in the independent claims.

The claimed priority-groups means that all the users in a predetermined group of multiple users of a priority-group can be provided with a new priority by simply assigning a new priority level to the priority-group. In contrast, if a group of users in Chavez need to be provided with a new priority, all the users in the group must first be identified, and thereafter, the priority for each user must be changed one-by-one. This is not a trivial task if a group of multiple users (e.g. firefighters at an accident site) should suddenly be assigned a new priority. Each user in the group must be identified (if this is even possible in case of turmoil at an accident when it may be uncertain who is on the site) and the priority for each user must then be changed one-by-one.

In addition, Chavez routes incoming phone calls according to a “call coverage path.” See col. 1, lines 11-21 and col. 2, lines 11-13. The wireless terminals within a particular area are assigned to answer an incoming call in a particular order or sequence. This is accomplished by assigning a priority to each terminal such that a first terminal has a highest priority and will therefore attend to (i.e., “answer”) an incoming call first, whereas a second terminal has a lower priority and will therefore attend to the incoming call after a predetermined period if the first terminal has not yet attended to the call, and so on for a third terminal with an even lower priority. See the examples described in col. 3, line 50 to col. 4, line 19.

This simply means that the terminals in Chavez will attend to an incoming call in a predetermined order according to a “call coverage path.” In particular, *Chavez* requires that

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only one terminal is assigned a certain priority in a certain area which means that two terminals can not have the same priority in the same area. See col. 3, line 50 to col. 4, line 19, and col. 4, line 61 to col. 5, line 5. This makes sense given Chavez's main purpose of routing incoming phone calls according to a so-called "call coverage path." If two terminals have the same priority in the same area, then both terminals would attend ("answer") an incoming call at the same time.

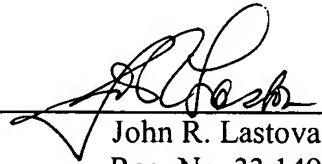
Accordingly, Boland and Chavez fail to teach multiple features from the independent claims.

The application is in condition for allowance. An early notice to that effect is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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